

# Optimists celebrate special youth week

As a member of the Optimist Club of Georgetown I have been part of a team of interviewers who contacted and interviewed gifted Georgetown teenagers (13 to 18 years of age), for the purpose of finding the best ones for a junior and a senior achievement award.

Optimists all over North America celebrate Youth Appreciation Week this year from November 4 to November 10. On November 13, we will hold a dinner at which the awards are announced and presented.

Let me state right away I was tremendously elated about the young people we encountered during our interviews. All of them were strongly motivated in more than one field. They excelled in their school work, they were active in sports, they participated in religious activities, and they belonged to groups with environmental concerns.

All had challenging hobbies such as sailing, gliding, wood-carving, and music, to name a few. All of them worked part-time. All of them had a pretty clear idea of what they wanted to be and how they would get there,



**John Sommer**  
IDEAS AND THE ARTS

and their choices in regards to future jobs and professions all contained elements of service.

All were conscious of the stresses our society is going through and all wanted to do something about it.

Not one of them mentioned as his or her goal to become rich, to own cars, to live a life of leisure.

These youngsters, I thought with a happy heart, are going to be the leaders of tomorrow, and they are going to be different. It was also obvious that the parents of these boys and girls supported their children to an extraordinary degree. Not by drowning them in material goods however,

but by establishing emotional and spiritual values.

Every time awards are given, only a few will win, and many, who also deserve them, will not. I would like to say to all those who will not win this time: the search for excellence has not that much to do with awards. The search for excellence is so satisfying that the search itself becomes the award in the end.

The gremlins that infest places where newspapers are made, managed to change considerably the meaning of my column last week. The amount of oil from Iraq and Kuwait the United States wastes every year because of inefficient cars is a whopping 290,000,000 barrels, not the paltry 290,000 barrels that slipped into print.

With a friend I drove through the lovely late-autumn Caledon Hills to Orangeville last week. Our goal was The Terrace Gallery on 76 Broadway in Orangeville.

There, Ian Ramsay, a very young ceramic artist from Scotland is exhibiting (to

December 1), a spectacular group of large riders titled "Posse". Apart from the art-works technical and formal achievement (ceramic works so large in size are extremely difficult to fire), "Posse" is a hilarious send-up of men and their readiness to band together and raise hell.

I am sure you will laugh when you see this witty tableau, it would be just right for a police or army headquarters. The Terrace Gallery exhibits the art and craft-work of many other interesting artists and artisans, and is well worth a visit.

Right behind The Terrace Gallery, the former Orangeville railway station has come to rest. It is a restaurant now with a truly delightful gift store attached to it. The gallery and restaurant are open on Sundays too and I suggest that you go there before Christmas for a change of scene. Orangeville is a grand old town anyway, with many places of interest, but these two new ventures are unique.

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# McDonalds commences recycling campaign

By MARK TUFFORD

Last Friday McDonald's of Georgetown officially started its recycling campaign. While the actual recycling program started about three months ago, it finally got into full swing with the installation of proper recycling bins just a few weeks ago.

The owner/operator of the Georgetown McDonald's, Richmond Chandler, was on hand to make a presentation about recycling at McDonald's. On hand for the presentation were Mayor Russ Miller, Halton North MPP Noel Duignan, Regional Chairman Pete Pomeroy and Gary Hutton, Manager of the

community relations division of the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

The main concern for McDonald's and the environment is the company's polystyrene containers, which take up space in landfill sites and are virtually non-biodegradable. Polystyrene containers are, however, 100 per cent recyclable, and McDonald's plans to have over 100 stores across Canada participating in polystyrene recycling.

McDonald's is also one of the 18 founding members of the Canadian Polystyrene Recycling Association. McDonald's is also recycling its styrofoam cups, plastic utensils; and cutting down on napkins, lids for cold drinks and paper products.

While all fast-food service restaurant packaging only accounts for a minimal amount of

landfill space (a 1/4 of one per cent), McDonald's packaging is just a fraction of that 1/4 of one per cent.

Even with these statistics Richmond Chandler wants to do more for the environment, which is why he started this recycling program.

The McDonald's Corporation of Canada, as a whole, will use 25 per cent of their annual profits (\$10 million), to benefit the recycling program.

Mr. Chandler also took part in the official ribbon cutting for the recycling program, which included: Mayor Miller, Noel Duignan, Pete Pomeroy, Gary Hutton, Richmond Chandler, Dave Cropper (the Area Supervisor for the three McDonald's owned by Mr. Chandler) and Finlay Arnold, Store Manager for the Georgetown McDonald's.



Georgetown McDonald's kicked off its recycling program last Friday with a press conference and ribbon-cutting. McDonald's employee, Renee Hegl of Georgetown, is pictured above showing the younger generation, four-year-old Cheryl Ryleh, also from Georgetown, the proper items to recycle.



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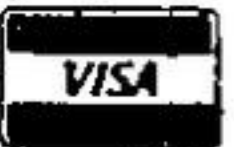
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